United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Michigan Field Office
Cooperating with Michigan Department of Agriculture and
Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service

Michigan Crop Weather

MI-CW3210 August 9, 2010

Hot and Dry

Six days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending August 8, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation ranged from 0.03 inches in the southeast Lower Peninsula to 0.75 inches in the western Upper Peninsula. Temperatures ranged from 3 to 5 degrees above normal in the Lower and Upper Peninsulas. Producers were in need of rain after another week of high humidity and heat. Hot conditions caused some concern of increased disease problems in vegetable crops. "Sunshine and plenty of heat has created a deficit in moisture, and heat stress is now apparent in some fields," stated one reporter in the west central Lower Peninsula. Dry conditions did advance fieldwork and harvest.

Field Crops

With another hot dry week, field crops have taken a downward turn in quality. Sunshine and heat created a moisture deficiency across much of the state. One reporter indicated that no permanent damage had occurred yet stating, "field crops in general look good and one more good rain would probably carry them through to harvest." However, the warm temperatures mixed with no precipitation had many on the lookout for disease and downy mildew problems, as well as lower yield potential. "A good soaking rain is needed," stated a reporter from mid Michigan. **Corn** was starting to curl as it continues through dough and dent stages. Sudden Death Syndrome was reported in **soybeans** in southwest counties. Some were still spraying fields for Japanese Beetles and other pests. Farmers were able to get in another cutting of **alfalfa**; however, without more rain the chances of another good cutting look minimal. **Oat** harvest was nearing completion. **Sugarbeets** continued to be well ahead of normal pace. Growers expect to start harvest early this year because the crop has been ahead of schedule.

Fruit

Growing degree days and beginning of harvest were about 12 to 14 days ahead of normal. Soils around the state remain dry. The heat has affected fruit set in vine crops. **Apples** continued to size well where there has been rainfall or irrigation; and growth has stalled where moisture supplies have not been adequate. Japanese beetle numbers have increased in the southeast. **Peaches** were between 3 and 3.25 inches in the southeast; harvest of the Red Haven variety has begun. European **plums** continued to color and remained at 2 inches in length and 1.5 inches in diameter in the southeast. Early varieties continued to be harvested in the southwest. **Strawberry** growth remained variable due to the amount of rain. **Pears** remained at about 2.25 inches in diameter with very little growth in unirrigated blocks in the southeast. Harvest of **blueberries** continued. Bird feeding continued to be a problem in the southeast. **Grapes** are not at veraison yet in the southeast. Japanese beetles have begun feeding in grape clusters and on leaves. Summer **raspberry** harvest continued in the southwest; and harvest of early maturing fall varieties have started in the southeast.

Vegetables

Warm weather and humidity continued and has increased disease problems. Growers continued spraying for foliar and bacterial diseases. **Onion** and **winter squash** harvest began in the Grand Rapids area, while harvest of **cabbage**, **yellow squash**, **celery**, **zucchini** for fresh and processing, **cucumbers for pickles**, **sweet corn**, **potatoes**, **snap beans**, **peppers**, **watermelon**, **tomato**, and **eggplant** continued. Quality was good in tomato fields, aside from the presence of blossom end rot on early fruit. **Broccoli** and **cauliflower** continued progressing. Some sweet corn fields were disked down after harvest. Vine crops, such as **pumpkins** and **fall squash**, continued sizing. Pumpkins were beginning to show color in the Macomb County area. Watermelons and **muskemelons**, in Macomb County, were producing excellent fruit. However, powdery mildew was evident. On muck soils, **carrots**, **radishes, lettuce**, **beets**, **turnips, parsnips**, and **leeks** were growing well. **Potatoes** were blooming in the southeast. The numbers of insects caught in traps have increased.

Soil moisture for week ending 08/08/10

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
Topsoil	17	36	45	2
Subsoil	13	33	52	2

Crop condition for week ending 08/08/10

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
All Hay	1	4	24	44	27
Barley	0	4	33	44	19
Corn	2	7	17	38	36
Dry beans	4	17	25	33	21
Pasture	2	8	29	42	19
Soybeans	2	6	21	44	27

Crop progress for week ending 08/08/10

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
All hay, second cutting	83	71	69	80
All hay, third cutting	29	20	16	24
Apples, harvested	4	NA	3	0
Barley, harvested	68	28	NA	NA
Blueberries, harvested	80	66	63	58
Corn, silked	97	94	68	89
Corn, dough	50	32	4	24
Corn, dent	8	2	0	2
Dry beans, blooming	94	81	52	80
Dry beans, setting pods	65	36	12	51
Oats, harvested	86	62	24	51
Peaches, harvested	47	23	22	31
Potatoes, harvested	2	1	9	8
Soybeans, blooming	92	89	80	90
Soybeans, setting pods	71	52	30	64

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Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 08/08/10 [1]

Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days [2]			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2010	2009	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	89	47		1,559	1,130		0.70	2.94	4.23	16.08		
Marquette	90	46		1,518	1,016		0.70	2.94	4.23	16.08		
Stephenson	92	52		1,789	1,313		1.75	2.32	3.90	17.32		
Western UP	92	40	3	1,568	1,088	1,305	0.75	2.51	3.84	15.85	13.80	3.69
Cornell	88	50		1,696	1,202		0.23	2.09	3.40	16.21		
Sault St Marie	85	45		1,572	1,007		1.32	1.63	2.32	10.53		
Eastern UP	90	45	5	1,536	1,021	1,122	0.59	1.55	2.68	14.67	12.91	3.53
Beulah	84	54		1,859	1,370		0.86	1.46	3.36	14.26		
Lake City	85	46		1,774	1,301		0.61	1.51	5.61	18.30		
Old Mission	88	53		1,786	1,254		0.71	1.14	2.55	13.33		
Pellston	83	42		1,703	1,180		0.77	0.97	1.41	13.46		
Northwest	88	42	4	1,738	1,237	1,479	0.61	1.07	2.74	13.54	12.07	3.11
Alpena	89	44		1,723	1,263		0.17	0.45	3.45	14.83		
Houghton Lake	87	45		1,860	1,311		0.38	1.50	3.95	14.81		
Rogers City	84	48		1,616	1,250		1.19	1.24	3.98	17.27		
Northeast	89	44	3	1,763	1,270	1,431	0.51	0.97	4.12	16.24	12.16	3.12
Fremont	86	55		2,009	1,494		0.41	0.44	2.13	9.94		
Hart	85	55		1,910	1,417		0.34	0.44	3.67	13.94		
Muskegon	85	61		2,163	1,620		0.01	0.03	3.13	13.02		
West Central	86	51	5	1,994	1,489	1,619	0.23	0.36	3.08	12.61	12.18	3.60
Alma	90	53		2,077	1,547		0.14	0.17	1.52	16.89		
Big Rapids	88	52		1,939	1,420		0.15	0.28	1.70	15.48		
Central	90	51	3	2,004	1,475	1,688	0.38	0.51	1.81	13.98	13.17	3.64
Bad Axe	87	52		1,946	1,408		0.10	0.25	4.39	17.11		
Pigeon	86	48		1,929	1,388		0.24	0.45	3.82	13.44		
Saginaw	88	52		2,177	1,567		0.10	0.35	1.55	12.43		
Standish	88	48		1,887	1,390		0.27	0.66	4.63	17.99		
East Central	88	48	4	1,950	1,435	1,673	0.15	0.39	3.16	14.86	12.02	2.93
Fennville	85	59		2,050	1,572		0.05	0.07	5.06	22.18		
Grand Rapids	88	58		2,277	1,750		0.00	0.02	2.73	20.43		
Holland	88	60		2,246	1,840		0.26	0.26	7.33	27.82		
South Bend, IN	85	61		2,299	1,892		0.38	0.69	4.21	19.44		
Watervliet	86	59		2,190	1,711		0.33	0.49	3.98	17.81		
Southwest	88	56	3	2,183	1,728	1,819	0.31	0.41	4.20	19.67	13.92	3.18
Belding	86	53		2,016	1,500		0.29	0.29	1.51	15.13		
Coldwater	84	57		2,228	1,771		0.25	0.67	3.04	16.34		
Lansing	87	53		2,210	1,650		0.01	0.02	1.54	13.51		
South Central	89	53	3	2,120	1,632	1,801	0.11	0.24	2.97	17.13	13.77	3.36
Detroit	89	59		2,373	1,865		0.00	0.47	5.39	18.61		
Flint	90	48		2,188	1,605		0.07	0.07	1.14	13.20		
Romeo	92	52		2,101	1,609		0.00	0.35	1.95	12.96		
Tipton	87	55		2,152	1,678		0.03	0.23	4.42	20.03		
Toledo, OH	89	57		2,391	1,903		0.04	0.86	4.52	18.75		
Southeast	92	46	3	2,194	1,737	1,784	0.03	0.39	3.37	17.42	13.31	3.12

[1] Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

[2] Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.